

~~CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY~~

REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Egypt/Europe

DATE DISTR. 10 December 1948

SUBJECT 1. Egyptian Purchase of Arms in Europe
2. Shipment of Czech Arms to Egypt
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Representatives of the Egyptian Government are continuing their efforts to purchase military equipment in Europe. The Egyptian Commercial Attache in Paris, Mansur Fahmi, assisted by Henri Morel, a French businessman, and Edmond G. Assuad, an Egyptian businessman, have been studying offers made by the Swiss arms dealer, Neidhard (fnu).
2. These offers have included Vampire, Spitfire, Lancaster, Messerschmitt, and Dakota planes, as well as Sherman tanks and 75 mm. and 88 mm. guns. According to source, Fahmi's present intention is to concentrate on the acquisition of guns, Sherman tanks, and Dakota planes. Fahmi will not attempt to buy additional modern planes until he is satisfied that competent crews can be found to fly them to Egypt. He hopes that Neidhard may provide such crews.
3. At present, Fahmi is consulting his superiors in an attempt to obtain their agreement, in principle, to the proposals. If Fahmi obtains this approval, source states that Egyptian experts will come to Paris in order to negotiate with Neidhard directly.
4. A consignment of arms for Egypt will be shipped shortly from Czechoslovakia to Egypt, via Gdynia, Poland. The consignment consists of small arms ammunition, rifles, and machine guns. The arms are valued at \$4,500,000, but payment will probably be made in Swiss francs.

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